

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1972

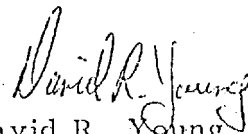
Dear Mr. Blair:

Ron Ziegler has passed on to me your letter of May 2 requesting declassification of materials relating to the U.S. submarine war against Japan. President Nixon, as you correctly stated, has urged the declassification of documents relating to World War II. Such an undertaking however, will involve the extensive review of millions of pages of documents and accordingly will require the appropriation of specific funds for that purpose. To date the necessary funds have not been forthcoming from the Congress in spite of the President's request. The Archivist of the United States who is charged with overseeing the project has nevertheless begun to set in motion a review procedure - and we are optimistic that the moneys necessary to put this review into full gear will be acted on by Congress shortly.

In addition to the above the President has directed in a new Executive Order 11652 that individuals may request declassification of documents over 10 years old when certain criteria are met. I enclose for your information a copy of the Executive Order, the press briefings related to it and a subsequent NSC Directive issued this past week. These spell out in considerable detail the mechanics of review and I would suggest that you initiate your request with the greatest degree of particularity possible at both the Defense Department and the Archives. Both these departments will be naming specific offices which will receive such requests sometime in the week or so since the new Order and Directive go into effect June 1.

If you do not receive satisfaction from these requests in due course, we will be pleased to address the problem again on your behalf.

Sincerely,



David R. Young
Special Assistant,
National Security Council